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## DIGEST

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HB 218 Reengrossed

2026 Regular Session

LaFleur

**Abstract:** Requires the inclusion of questions pertaining to food insecurity on a residency questionnaire administered to public school students.

Proposed law:

- (1) Requires the state Dept. of Education (DOE), in consultation with the La. Dept. of Health (LDH), to include questions pertaining to food insecurity on the residency questionnaire administered for purposes of federal law.
- (2) Requires each public school to distribute the questionnaire to each student in grades K-12 upon enrollment, change of address, and reasonable suspicion of food insecurity by school personnel or school-based health clinics.
- (3) Requires each school that does not provide a free school lunch program or participate in the federal Community Eligibility Provision universal lunch program to also provide the questionnaire each school year to each student who is classified as economically disadvantaged as defined by the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education.
- (4) Provides that if the responses indicate that a student is at risk for food insecurity, the school shall provide the parents or legal guardian information on federal, state, community, and school resources and services that may be available.
- (5) Requires the information on federal, state, and community resources to be compiled by LDH, which shall provide the information to each school at no cost to the school or its school board.
- (6) Requires that responses remain confidential except for disclosure to a student's parent or legal guardian or to the student if he has reached the age of majority or is an emancipated minor and to authorized school personnel responsible for the provision of the information as required by proposed law.
- (7) Prohibits school employees from using the responses to make any decision relating to student instruction, academic opportunities, or discipline.
- (8) Provide that no school board or employee thereof shall be liable for damages in a civil action for injury, death, or loss to person or property that allegedly arises from an act or omission

associated with proposed law unless the act or omission constitutes willful or wanton misconduct.

Proposed law is applicable to all public schools, including charter schools.

(Adds R.S. 17:2113 and 3996(B)(24))

#### Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Education to the original bill:

1. Instead of requiring schools to administer a food insecurity screening to students, require the state Dept. of Education to include questions pertaining to food insecurity on the residency questionnaire administered for federal law purposes (the McKinney-Vento Act).
2. Add that the information on federal, state, and community resources shall be compiled by the La. Dept. of Health, which shall provide it to each school at no cost to the school boards.
3. Add a limitation of liability for school boards and school employees.